

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 03573 240933Z

51

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

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R 240750Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 297

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 3573

PASS AG AND COMMERCE
FOR STR ACTION

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MY

SUBJ: MTN: MALAYSIAN TROPICAL PRODUCT REQUEST LIST

REF: USMISSION GENEVA A-205

1. ON JUNE 23 EMBASSY RECEIVED MFA NOTE CU 81/75 TRANSMITTING COPY OF SUBJECT LIST TRANSMITTED TO DEPARTMENT INUSM GENEVA A-205.

2. SUBSTANCE OF NOTE AS FOLLOWS:

A. QUOTE THE PRODUCTS CONTAINED IN THE REQUEST LIST ARE PRODUCTS OF GREAT ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE TO MALAYSIA, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF HER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND HER NEW ECONOMIC POLICY. THE PRODUCTS HAVE EMERGED AS IMPORTANT ITEMS OF EXPORT INTEREST TO MALAYSIA MAINLY AS A RESULT OF THE SUCCESS IN HER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

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PAGE 02 KUALA 03573 240933Z

IN THIS RESPECT THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD RE-

QUEST THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO GIVE ITS FULLEST COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING IN THE REMOVAL OF THE TARIFF AND NONTRAIFF OBSTACLES THAT ARE FACED BY THESE MALAYSIAN EXPORTS TO U.S.A.. UNQUOTE

3. COMMENT. RUBBER BASED AND WOOD BASED PRODUCTS LISTED ON PAGES 3, 4 AND 5 REFLECT GOM POLICY TO INCREASE SUBSTANTIALY DOMESTIC PROCESSING IN THESE TWO MAJOR INDUSTRIES. THESE PRODUCTS EXPECTED REACH IMPORTANT VALUES IN PERHAPS FIVE YEARS. SIMILARLY, BNT 15.13 (HYDROGENATED) HAS CONSIDERABLE POTENTIAL AND COULD REACH SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TONS IN FAIRLY SHORT TIME-FRAME. THIS ITEM, OF COURSE, COMPETES DIRECTLY WITH SOY BEAN. ITEMS UNDER BTN 15.07 (PALM KERNAL OIL UNFIT FOR USE AS FOOD AND COCONUT OIL) DO NOT APPEAR HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL FOR MALAYSIA. RE CANNED PINEAPPLE, MALAYSIA IS MAJORU PRODUCER AND SHIPPER. RESOLUTION OF CUBE AND SLICE PROBLEM WOULD BE MEANINGFUL FOR THEM AND, IN VIEW DIMINISHING US PRODUCTION, PERHAPS NOT BE COSTLY FOR US. MOST MALAYSIAN PEPPER IS EXPORTED TO SINGAPORE FOR GRADING, PROCESSING AND RE-EXPORT. GOM INTENDS UNDERTAKE THIS ITSELF AND TO EXPORT DIRECT. RE PRAWNS, MOST EXPORTS NOW ARE TO JAPAN, REFLECTING LESS STRINGENT STANDARDS, BUT GOM HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE ENTER US MARKET. MALAYSIA IS PRESENTLY NET IMPORTER OF FISH; THERFORE, THIS ITEM DOES NOT APPEAR HOLD GREAT POTENTIAL, ALTHOUGH FISHING WILL RECEIVE GREATER EMPHASIS IN THIRD FIVE YEAR PLAN (1976-80).
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